

Cold taking a toll on children

Pabna, Barishal hospitals struggling to cope with patients



The recent cold waves have brought misery for the little ones. With no vacant hospital beds available at hospitals in Pabna, many are forced to seek treatments lying on the floor. This photo was taken recently.

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU and SUSHANTA GHOSH

Childhood pneumonia cases and deaths have increased around the country amidst the ongoing cold wave. Pabna and Barishal are no exceptions.

In Pabna General Hospital, 143 children are currently admitted to the 34-bed beds pediatric ward. Besides, over 30 children are currently admitted to the 16 beds diarrhoea unit of the facility, said Md Sohel Hossain, a statistic officer of the hospital.

Many of these children are forced to seek treatments lying on the floor due to a shortage of beds, making

them vulnerable to further cold-related infections. Over 30 children are currently admitted at the 16-beds diarrhoea unit of the facility.

At least six children have died in the hospital last week, added Sohel.

"The number of child patients is alarmingly high this winter," he observed.

In a recent visit to the hospital, this correspondent found patients on the floors of the different wards, corridors and balconies. A single bed was shared by three-four patients to deal with the influx, but even that was not enough.

"My child has been suffering from pneumonia for the last few days. Due to a lack of bed, we are forced

to keep him on the floor despite his severe situation," a father told this correspondent.

Dr Nitish Kumar, assistant professor (pediatric) of Pabna Medical College, said, "As winter peaks, children are mostly affected with diarrhoea, pneumonia and various viral infections. We struggle to keep up with the number of patients in our children's ward every winter."

Meanwhile, the children of Barishal are also facing the same ordeal.

Although there are only 36 beds at the children ward of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, over 100

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KILLED IN COP FIRING IN US Human chain demands justice for Sayed Faisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A human chain was formed in front of the foreign ministry in Dhaka yesterday, demanding justice for the killing of Bangladesh origin Sayed Faisal, a Cambridge resident and a student of the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

A Cambridge police official shot and killed an allegedly armed Faisal on January 4, prompting dozens to protest police brutality and call for transparency at Cambridge City Hall on January 5.

The protest comes when the US National Security Council's Senior Director for South Asia Rear Admiral Eileen Laubacher is scheduled to hold meeting with Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen at the foreign ministry.

She is on a four-day visit to discuss security, Rohingya crisis and other bilateral issues.

Journalist and columnist Ajay Das Gupta said it is very unfortunate that the US police shot dead a Bangladeshi who was not found guilty of any crime.

"We want justice for him," he said. He said there are many incidents of human rights violations and racial violence taking place in the US but they are advising other countries on human rights.

"We don't want human rights violations in our country. But if there is, we will take action ourselves,

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4 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least four persons were killed in three separate road accidents in Kurigram, Panchagarh and Gaibandha on Sunday night and early yesterday.

In Kurigram, an 11-year-old Musa Mia died when a truck rammed into a house on the side of a road in Kurigram Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

He was a student of class five at a local primary school, said Kurigram Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Khan Mohammad Shaharia.

The incident happened near Jatrapur Union Parishad in the upazila around 11:00pm on Sunday when the family was asleep, said the OC. Three injured family members are undergoing treatment at Kurigram General Hospital, he said.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee. Legal action is being taken in this regard, he added.

In Panchagarh, a mother and son were killed after a passenger-bus hit their motorbike on Panchagarh-Dhaka highway at Holdiapukuri village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh on Sunday night.

The victims were identified as Md Mishu (25) and his mother Mahfuja Akhter(50).

Police said the driver of the bus managed to flee the scene with his vehicle. Efforts are underway to identify the vehicle.

In Gaibandha, Dulali Begum (42) died and six others were injured when a sand-laden truck rammed into a battery-operated auto-rickshaw in Gobindaganj upazila yesterday morning.

The injured are Md Manik (27) Shah Alam (50) Lalmia (35) Afzal Hossain (35), Rubel Mia (38), and Enamul (35).

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